





## Intimations.

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" " " " Celebrated Naples Soap, &c.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 12th March, 1889.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1889.

THE discussion on *The Praya Reclamation Bill* at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Friday last shows plainly both the strength and character of the so-called opposition to this great public measure. And what does it amount to after all? The Hon. Mr. RYRIE is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, and purely in that capacity and not on any public grounds whatever he made a feeble, not to say ridiculous protest against the second reading of the proposed ordinance, "because he wished to make a proviso that all private interests should be safeguarded and compensation given where loss was shown, especially referring to wharves." Plainly stated, the honorable gentleman was desirous that the Steamboat Company should be compensated to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars for being deprived of a wharf which is public property, and of which the said Company has had, as a special favour and under clearly defined conditions, the use of for many years past. It cannot be too clearly understood that the Steamboat Company has no legal claim whatever to any compensation; the permission to construct a wharf was conceded on the distinct understanding that it was to be removed whenever the Government wished; the wharf was built solely for the convenience of and in the interests of the Company's traffic and has no doubt proved a very valuable concession, and yet, now that public convenience requires the original agreement to be carried out, a monstrous claim is advanced for compensation. If the Steamboat Company had any legal rights, then the question of compensation would be a fitting one for discussion, but it has absolutely none and never had any—not even a claim that in equity would receive the least consideration. The Company borrows a valuable privilege, and when asked to return it the Chairman of the Board prates about safeguarding private interests, and querulously complains of anticipated serious losses which have no concern either for the Government or the public. Let us suppose that the honorable the senior unofficial member, with that generous spirit of hospitality for which he is so well known, invited a friend to take temporary possession of "Craig-Ryrie" on the understanding that he would "clear out" when requested; what would the owner think when he desired to take possession of his property if the friendly tenant declined to move without liberal compensation? Now these are the exact

relative positions of the Government on the one hand and the Steamboat Company and the wharf owners on the other, and it seems to us that nothing could more plainly indicate the folly of the ridiculous assumptions made on behalf of imaginary private interests. But in this matter the promoters of the Praya Reclamation have acted with exceptional liberality. His Excellency the Governor, although in no way called upon to make any such provision so far as the tenants of private wharves were concerned, actually insisted on the marine lot-holders setting aside the large sum of \$180,000 out of their anticipated profits as a sort of *voluntum* for the removal of the wharves, and in the opinion of the late Surveyor General—who is stated to have put himself to considerable personal inconvenience in verifying his calculations—this amount is amply sufficient to cover all claims. What then does Mr. RYRIE actually want? Whatever it may be, he cannot too soon be made to understand that the interests of the Steamboat Company are subservient to the rights of the Hongkong public, and that the reclamation of the Praya is essential for the benefit of the community at large.

Mr. RYRIE raised a further objection on behalf of some of the marine lot-holders, who, according to the honorable member, allege that their particular lots will be depreciated by the reclamation. Considering that the scheme was unanimously agreed to by the lot-holders, that not a single voice was raised against it when it was decided at a public meeting to finally accept the proposals of the Government, frivolous objections of this sort come rather late in the day and are greatly to be deprecated. It would almost appear that the senior unofficial member has assumed the rôle of mouthpiece to the person who for some weeks past has been flooding the columns of a minor local newspaper with incoherent and purposeless strictures of the *Praya Reclamation Ordinance* and of the undertaking generally, even without making himself acquainted with the actual state of affairs. Perhaps Mr. RYRIE, the next time he thinks fit to bring up this subject before the Council, will come prepared with a few facts to support his absurd contentions! Who are the dissentient marine lot-holders, and what are their actual grievances? We do not believe in the existence of either the one or the other. What are "the privileges and rights" of the Steamboat Company which the ordinance threatens to destroy, and about which the honorable gentleman considered it his duty to speak? As we have said before the Company has absolutely no rights, and as to the privileges which it has enjoyed at such a cheap rate for so long being threatened, all that, as Mr. CHATER very pointedly observed in referring to his colleague's assertion about serious and heavy damage being sustained, is purely imaginary. Both the Government and the marine lot-holders have been liberal almost to prodigality in their efforts to avoid complications and delay in commencing and carrying out this vast public improvement, and most decidedly should not be worried by factious opposition and irritating objections of this sort. If any vested rights are infringed on, a good ground exists for claiming just consideration, but not otherwise. What the Acting Attorney General designated "permissive owners," who have actually no legal status, ought to be thankful for the handsome treatment they have already received.

THE case of HAROLD DOWSON, late manager of the China and Japan Telephone Company, who was sentenced on Monday last by Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, acting police magistrate, to six months imprisonment with hard labour for stealing three amounts aggregating \$140.40 during 1887 and 1888, the property of his employers, has already attracted considerable public attention, which the extraordinary proceedings of the acting magistrate—reported in another part of this issue—will no doubt increase. Mr. Dowson, who has been in prison for debt for some months past, admitted that he had received the monies alleged to have gone astray, but denied appropriating them with any criminal intention, and this view would appear to have been believed in by the prosecution, the lawyer for the Telephone Company stating that previous to this affair they had no reason to doubt Dowson's honesty, and they thought that owing to indulgence in drink, which led to his being discharged from their service, he was possibly not in a fit state of mind to regulate his actions at the time. In view of this admission, and considering that their hapless ex-manager had not only sacrificed a fairly lucrative situation, but had expended his follies by a rather lengthy sojourn in a debtor's prison, we are rather astonished that the Company considered it necessary to prosecute at all—especially as, according to the magistrate, they did not wish to press the charge. However, on investigation it was

found that the sentence passed on Dowson was illegal, the police magistrate having no power to deal summarily with an offence of this kind committed more than six months previously, and so the unfortunate prisoner was again dragged from his cell and made a public exhibition of in the police court dock in a fashion which degrades the impartial administration of justice. He was first committed to take his trial at the Supreme Court and then taken back to prison; on another plea, that the prosecution wished to give some evidence, the magistrate for the second time annulled his decision, Dowson was again paraded in the dock and the further hearing of the case remanded. As the prisoner admits having received the monies, has in fact pleaded guilty and actually been sentenced, any comments on the case even whilst it is nominally *sub judice* cannot possibly interfere with the course of public justice; however, we refrain from doing more than directing the attention of the Government and the public to a state of affairs at the Magistracy which in our opinion demands instant and effective reform. As for Dowson, without attempting to extenuate the enormity of his offences, we think that the representative of the China and Japan Telephone Company might peruse that famous speech of PORTIA's, which commences—"The quality of mercy is not strained," with great advantage, the more especially in view of the fact that a substantial guarantee was offered that the monies so stupidly misappropriated would be repaid. Justice is not cruel, if it is frequently blind.

## TELEGRAMS.

(From Straits Times.)

## THE COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTE.

PARIS, March 25th.  
The tribunal of Commerce is of opinion that there are no sufficient grounds to liquidate the Comptoir, and has appointed two Administrators to summon a meeting to decide the question.

## ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

LONDON, March 25th.  
Count Herbert Bismarck is now in London on a special mission. It is believed that the object of his visit is for the purpose of arriving at an agreement with regard to Colonial matters.

## ANOTHER GLADSTONIAN TRIUMPH.

A Gladstonian has been elected for Gorton, South East Lancashire, by a majority of 845. [The new member succeeds the late Mr. Richard Peacock, iron founder and civil engineer. Mr. Peacock was also a Gladstonian, and in 1886 had a majority of 457. It will be seen that the majority is now materially increased.]

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Alacrity* returned to Shanghai from the Yangtze ports on the 26th inst.

THE rains in Foochow lately have been of such a heavy character that a flood is expected by the natives if they continue much longer.

WE are informed by the agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) that the "Glen" liner *Glenloch*, from London, left Singapore for Hongkong this morning.

THE *Manila Comercio* of the 28th ulto. reports the receipt of a telegram to the effect that the British steamer *Clyde* has stranded in the Red Sea. She left Manila on the 14th February with a cargo of 16,886 piculs of hemp and 200,000 cigars, but with no passengers. She was dispatched by Messrs. Ker & Co.

THE Hongkong Hotel does not seem to be the safest kind of a panthecon at present, whilst the scaffolding in connection with the annex is up. Five rooms were entered last night, the windows in each case being left open, and a variety of articles stolen, some even from the bed side. No one has been arrested.

DURING the heavy thunderstorm yesterday afternoon the Chinese Imperial Revenue cruiser *Chuen Tiao*, lying at anchor inside Stonecutter's Island, was struck by lightning. The vessel, which is described as being about a foot in breadth by six feet in length, struck and severely shattered the fore-topmast of the vessel, and then made a zigzag track along the deck, passing between the first and second officers, both of whom luckily escaped unharmed.

THE *Courier d'Extrême Orient* publishes the public reception given by the Resident-General of Hanoi to the pirate chief Van, and his numerous suite when they tendered their submission, as a public scandal. A great deal of attention is said to have been ridiculously bestowed on the whole band, particularly on their leader, who has been freed and lodged at Hanoi, much to the discomfort of the garrison and the local merchants. The *Avant du Tonkin*, which is published at Hanoi, is of the same opinion.

A CASE which promises interesting revelations was briefly opened at the Police Court this morning before Mr. Pollock. Two boatmen were charged with receiving stolen property, and the evidence was as follows:—A sampan-man was engaged by one of the prisoners, about a month ago, to convey him to a steamer—the English mail, he believed—at West Point. On reaching the vessel, the second defendant, who was on board, lowered a package into the boat. The witness asked what it contained, and was told to mind his own business. He was then directed to row to Yau-mai, where the second defendant, who had left the steamer and come over in another sampan, joined them. The package was lifted into the latter boat, and the defendants got in and rowed away. Mr. Alf. Woolley, chief clerk in the P. & O. office, said the *Kaitum-Hind* was at West Point on the 11th ulto., taking in opium. A quantity was misappropriated from one chest. In consequence of information received from Shanghai, where three Europeans from the steamer were now awaiting trial on a charge of stealing opium, a watch was kept, and the prisoners arrested. The case was remanded.

THE *Kwang-hai* mentions that another big tiger was captured at Ch'ao Chow weighing over one hundred catties. When cut open several fingers were found in his stomach, thus showing that he was a lover of human flesh.

D. S. BIRD, a blue-jacket from the *Imperialist*, got off very lightly at the Police Court this morning. He went into a shop in Queen's Road yesterday, and bought some small articles. He also wanted a book, and as the shopman asked too much for it he leaped over the counter and snatched it. The shopman rushed to take it back, and in the scuffle one was struck on the head with a stool, and a pane of glass in a show-case smashed. A fine of \$3.50 was imposed.

SAVES THE FOOCHOW ECHO.—The irrepressible Viceroy of this province, in order not to be outdone by the exertions of the Road Trust Committee in that direction, has again come to the fore with another proclamation, dealing with three other shortcomings of the—to use a derogatory official phrase—turbulent and evil-disposed people of Fokien. These last shortcomings in full bloom of youth, who contrive to scrape an honest penny by picking tears, came in also for a severe lecture. The system of their employment in the different native tea hong beyond the bridge, is condemned in unmeasured terms, as it is alleged that many of the fair but frail ones are thereby led astray.

THE *Avenir du Tonkin* reports very favourably the prospects of the Kéboe Coal Mining Company in the Island of Kéboe, prospecting works continue with great activity. A vertical seam of good coal, two and a half metres in thickness, has been found, and new seams are being discovered every day. Embankments and sheds are being constructed near the sea side for warehousing, and a temporary pier has been erected, which will greatly facilitate the shipping of the coal. Houses and furniture are being got ready for the employees. The Company's representative has succeeded in getting the Messageries Fluviales to call at Kéboe, and it is proposed to connect the works by means of a telegraphic line with Tien-yen, across the island.

THE mystery of the Steam Launch Company, Limited, was exploded at the Police Court this morning. We can now guess why shares that are almost worthless have been quoted in the local share market at something like 500 per cent. premium. On Saturday last that popular resident Miss Lily Woodcock chartered the Company's launch *Bonnie* for a short cruise in the harbour. After two hours and a half of no end of a good time on the ocean wave, and the Chinese coxswain promptly repaid "five dollars." With a winking smile the charter money was duly handed over, but that smile so completely broke up the coxswain that he only paid in \$4 to the Company's office. The Acting Magistrate (Mr. Pollock) did not consider this a valid defence, and sent the "visionary" coxswain into seclusion for six weeks.

SERGEANT Bullin made a really clever capture this morning. Whilst walking down Queen's Road West, about half-past seven, he chanced to look casually into a Chinese Jeweller's shop near Ladder Street. A Chinaman rather shabbily dressed was in front of the counter, and on the other side was a shopman, examining a crystal, gold-mounted locket. There was nothing remarkable in this, but the shopman, on seeing Bullin's shadow in the doorway, looked up, and then dropped the locket. Bullin, who is a modern sort of "Bullock, sir-Bullock," and arrests so jovially it is almost a pleasure, stepped in, cut a joke or two, and then took the rather shabby Chinaman to the Central Station to breakfast. On the way the man made a variety of statements as to how he got the locket, and finally offered it to Bullin if he would let him go, but of course he was unsuccessful. About an hour after he had been locked up he was sent for by the inspector, and was found lying on the floor, with his eyes nearly starting out of their sockets. On being examined he was discovered to have taken off a cord which held up his trousers and tied it round his throat. It had broken twice, so tightly had he pulled it, and there were great marks where it had compressed. He was watched after that, and soon afterwards remanded.

AFTER the gale of the 8th ulto., says the *Chinese Times*, some anxiety was felt in Tientsin for the safety of the *Palos*, which left Taku on the evening of the 7th, and there was a general sense of relief when advice came to hand that she had safely arrived at Choochow. We make an extract from a communication received from one of the officers of that popular gunboat—

"We have had what might be called a 'monkey and parrot time' since we left. The weather looked favourable enough when we left Taku, but on Friday morning we ran into a gale, or as the sailors say, a 'big sea.' It didn't take long to get up a sea in the Gulf of Pechili, and the worst kind of a sea for a little ship. The *Palos* is certainly a beautiful little ship, but will make much better weather in the short choppy sea of the Pechili. And so we had to run and run, and the trough of it in order to make our anchorage. The way we did it was to make a caution to make the boat's side steady up, which would have meant at least forty-eight hours of the heaviest kind of weather and the worst possible for this ship, barring typhoon. Considering the doubtful condition of our machinery, it was extremely fortunate that we were able to anchor. We lay in Charydy Harbour, Miao Tzu Islands, from Friday afternoon until this morning. We are now on our way to Choochow and expect to get there by noon. Such is life, and man is but a bubble."

THIS is the rainy season of our discontent, when "boys" was insolent and dollars ask before they've earned them, on the thin excuse they "wantee go" Canton, and there chin-chin the hungry spirits of their kindred dead-uns. This is our blank-way of explaining why the European community is at present going to business with a hand-wipe in its hat, and a hunted, strained expression as it thinks of the dreariness of its lodgings. Till about the 1st inst. all the "boys" who ever had a relative planted in a corpse-garden anywhere in China will pester their employers for advances and "lee days' leave" to go and put little spreads of fat pork, and roast duck, and *samsu*, and all the other articles the departed used to vainly hanker for in the days before the red haired barbarian came and taught in front of the ancestral vault. Then each "boy" will solemnly "scold" the banquet and feel spiritually and materially happy, and in three days he will be back, folding up his scullion's clothes, stealing his cigars, and pursuing the usual even tenor of his way generally. Mr. Smith, of the Comopolitan Dock, had trouble with her cook about this annual graveyard hankering, last week, such superstitions not finding a place in that lady's personality. As she would not give him furlough he took it, and she "pulled him up" before Mr. Pollock, this morning. He was fined \$3.50, and admonished that if he was caught thinking of his great-grandfather again within the next ten years he would be liable to be headed up in a boiler by Mr. Smith, and rolled into the dock.

WE are informed by the agents (Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.) that the steamship *Mogul*, from Liverpool, left Singapore this morning for Hongkong.

THE head coolie in the Commissariat Department was again before Mr. Wodehouse to-day, on a charge of stealing Government property. Mr. Hastings defended. It transpired that when the 1st Regiment took possession in December the head sergeant took stock, and in doing so came across a pile of things hidden between the floor and ceiling, among the stuff being 30 blankets, 58 sheets, three copper coal-scutes, &c. The prisoner admitted knowing that they were there but said they were surplus stock from which the sergeant could help himself if he needed any to make up his list. The case was again remanded.

OUR Macao correspondent writes under to-day's date:—The gunboat *Tygo* arrived on the 1st instant from Chinkiang and Shanghai whither she had been sent on a wild goose errand. She will shortly leave for Timor to relieve the *Rio Lima*, which vessel left Manila yesterday and is expected here on the 6th. It is currently reported that the few native prisoners who were sent from Timor to Macao, and subsequently sent back to Timor for trial, are again coming back on board the *Rio Lima*, with two more alleged accomplices of the actual murderers of the late Governor Mota. These prisoners will in all likelihood make a few more pleasure trips to and from Timor, before the face is completed. They have been awaiting trial since they were captured about two years ago. Such are the benefits of Lusitanian justice! Ex-Governor Firmino da Costa, of *Cholera morbus* notoriety, has been appointed Governor of Cape Verde. A reconstruction of the Cabinet is reported from Lisbon. Senhor Mariano de Carvalho resigned the portfolio of the Treasury. Senhor Navarro that of Public Works, and Senhor Barros Gomes that of Marine and the Colonies. The last named was subsequently appointed to the Treasury. Senhor Rosendo Garcia to the Marine and the Colonies and Senhor E. Coelho to the Public Works. Capt. Barbosa, late accountant of the Macao Treasury, has been appointed Inspector-General of the same department, and is en route for Macao by the next mail. The appointment of Major Luz to the command of the Police Force is said to have been gazetted in Lisbon. Capt. Pessoa returns to the Holy City as a Treasury clerk. Rain has fallen in abundance here, and the streets of the city are a perfect quagmire.

## A MAGISTERIAL Muddle.

If ever there was a burlesque on the famous thought that "earthly power doth then show likest God's When mercy seasons justice" it was to be seen in the judicial farce played at the Magistracy this morning, with the Acting Magistrate, Mr. H. E. Pollock, barrister-at-law, in the leading rôle. On Monday that gentleman, in the character of "Earthly Power," sentenced Harold Dowson, the former manager of the Telephone Company, to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for embezzling from his employers some thing over \$100 on various occasions last year. On thinking over the matter, however, his Worship found,—what he ought to have known before,—that he had no power to deal with the case, as six months had passed since the commission of the offence. He accordingly had the prisoner brought before him again, and remanded the case until this morning. At ten o'clock Dowson was in the dock, and instead of being at once committed, and so saved the gratuitous degradation of being a centre of observation longer than was necessary, was kept standing there for about an hour pending the conclusion of some petty charges against Choochow, which could just as well have been heard afterwards. At length his case was called, and Mr. Pollock told him that he proposed to commit him for trial at the Supreme Court. Mr. Pollock then asked the interpreter if the prisoner had pleaded guilty, and the question was passed on to Dowson, who replied that he had nothing to say, except that he thought the case was finished on Monday. His Worship vouchsafed no explanation, but, after pondering over the printed "caution," read it to the prisoner, beginning "Having heard the evidence do you wish to say anything in answer to the charges &c., which was absurd on the face of it, as no evidence had been taken so far. Dowson, who naturally seemed anxious to get away from the degrading publicity of the dock, again replied that he had not, and, having signed a form to that effect, left the Court. After this, to the surprise of the few individuals who were in Court, this unfortunate man was once more escorted into the dock, when the Acting Magistrate, for the third time, proceeded to aim the judicial gun at the bewildered target. "Defendant, the prosecution in this case say they wish to give some evidence," he said; "I shall therefore remand you till to-morrow. Then he signalled to the head executioner to remove the case-hardened culprit, opened his handbook on "Judicial Gymnastics," and nerved himself, doubtless, to sentence his prey to penal servitude for life in the morning, preparatory to binding him over in a personal recognisance to keep the peace, the gambling paraphernalia to be forfeited, and a certificate from the public vaccinator to be produced.

This was not the only escapade of the learned junior stipendiary during the day. Side by side with Dowson, in the morning, waited the "mad" Frenchman, who was sent to goal for two months yesterday,—not having \$250 for having "carried on" threateningly on the water and the barque *Chateau Louise*, on the high seas. Mr. Pollock showed himself truly "likest God" in his extraordinary "justice" with some mercy. Julian, the main in question, speaks French and Spanish, and a little ship-board English, but knows nothing of ordinary English colloquial, and an interpreter was engaged during the previous hearing of his case. This morning, however, his Worship trusted to his natural eloquence, percolating into the man, and in all the host of nondescript epithets attached to the Magistracy who filled the best seats in the Court there was no one who could communicate with the prisoner. Regardless, however, of this, Mr. Pollock leaped over, fixed Julian with his glittering eye, and said, in language which might as well have been Siamese—"I have decided to reduce the sentence in this case, defendant—to lessen your sentence. You are fined \$20, or five weeks," Julian simply stared. "30, or five weeks," shouted the Chinese interpreter, as he spread his fingers and tried to show twenty on one hand and five on the other. "My no untan," my spik Spanish French," said Julian, who seemed to labour under the impression that he had been doomed to some lingering death. "Spanish!" said the Chinese interpreter, and the Portuguese interpreter was accordingly sent for, and explained the magisterial *fat-buns*—my go for five weeks," said Julian, smiling, and he went. But what about this brand of magistracy? Perhaps Governor des Vaux, or the Chief Justice, or the Attorney-General, or somebody else, will recognise the necessity for putting a stop to these constantly recurring blunders on the magisterial bench which reduce the temple of justice to the level of a bear-garden!

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

## CLERICAL OPPRESSION IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."  
SIR,—As some very disagreeable news has reached me of arrests and imprisonments which are taking place in the Philippines, I cannot refrain from condoling with the victims and exposing the real instigators of these oppressive measures. I mean the regular clergy of those Islands. They seem to be constantly plotting against the security of innocent families and the respectability of independent citizens. The authorities do not seem to be aware of this, but the fact is undeniable. The policy of the subservience of the means to the end is strictly adhered to by our so-called Apostles of the Christian religion. Everything is lawful that helps them to attain their ends. I will relate a recent occurrence.

On the 23rd of March last, Manila police made several domiciliary visits and without any more ado proceeded to a minute search of all written documents, spending about eleven hours in the odious task in some houses. All the holders of objectionable documents were then taken to the goal where they were locked up and deprived of all communication the next day. Nobody seems to know exactly what has brought about these extraordinary proceedings, but the general version is that the monks and friars are at the bottom of the persecution. It is surmised that in the silence of their cloister these degenerate disciples of Peter the Fisherman have invented, or discovered, means to get the civil authorities to prosecute innocent families.

The undersigned and many Filipinos are fully convinced that the time has come for the Spanish Government to shake itself free from the grip of the monastic orders in the Philippines. May the Government and its delegates never forget that when the people constitute themselves as a tribunal, their verdict may be terrible, but it is irrevocable.

For the insertion of the above, I shall feel obliged.

Yours truly, FILIPINO.

Manila, 25th March, 1889.

## CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS.

INDIFFERENCE TO COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE.

III.

Most of the instances already adduced relate to Chinese indifference to comfort. It would not be difficult to cite as many more which bear upon disregard of convenience, but a few examples will be sufficient. The Chinese pride themselves upon being a literary nation, in fact the literary nation of the world. Pens, paper, ink, and ink-slabs are called the "four precious things," and their presence constitutes a "literary apartment." It is remarkable that not one of these four indispensable articles is carried about the person. They are by no means sure to be at hand when wanted, and all four of them are utterly useless without a fifth substance, to wit, water, which is required for rubbing up the ink. The pen cannot be used without considerable previous manipulation to soften its delicate hairs, it is very liable to be injured by inept handling, and it takes out a comparatively short time. The Chinese have no substitute for the pen, such as lead pencils, nor if they had them, would they be able to keep them in repair, since they have no pen-knives, and no pockets in which to carry them. We have previously endeavoured, in speaking of the economy of the Chinese, to do justice to their great skill in accomplishing excellent results with very inadequate means, but it is not the less true that such labour-saving devices are not to be constantly met in western lands, are unknown in China. In a modern hotel in the Occident, one has but to push something or to pull something and he gets whatever he wants, hot or cold water, lights, heat, service. But the finest hotel in the eighteen provinces, like all inferior places of accommodation, obliges its guest, whenever he is conscious of an un supplied need, to go to the outer door of his apartment, and yell at the top of his voice, vainly hoping to be heard for his much speaking.

Many articles constantly required by the Chinese are not to be had on demand, but only when the dealer in the same happens to make his irregular appearance. At all other times, one might as well expect to get the supply of the Soudan, as far as the supply of current wants is concerned. No Chinese citizen carries a lantern at night, yet in some cities at least, lanterns are to be had only when the peddler brings them around, and those who want them buy at such times, as we do of a milk-man, or a dealer in fresh yeast. That percentage of the whole population which lives in Chinese cities cannot be a large one, and in the country this limitation of traffic is the rule and not the exception. In some districts, for example, it is customary to sell timber for house building in the second moon, and the same logs are often dragged across the country from one large fair to another, till they are either sold, or taken back to their point of departure. No one should any inexperienced person be so rash as to wish to buy timber in the fifth moon, he will soon ascertain why the wisest of Orientals remarked that "there is a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Few inconveniences of the Celestial Empire make upon the western mind a more speedy and a more indelible impression, than the entire absence of "sanitation." Whenever there has been an attempt made to accomplish something in the way of draining, or of carrying off the evils are very much greater, than those which they were designed to cure. No Chinese citizen has lived in China, he remains in a condition of mental suspense, unable to decide that most interesting question, so often raised, which is the filthiest city in the empire? A visitor from one of the northern provinces, boasted to a resident of Amoy, that in offensiveness to the senses, no city in South China could equal those of the north. With a view to decide this moot point, the city of Amoy was extensively traversed, and found to be "unacceptably clean—that is, for a Chinese city." Julian, for the preeminence of his adopted home, the Amoy resident, claimed that he was taken as a disadvantage; as a heavy rain had recently done much to wash the streets. The traveller thinks he has found the worst Chinese city when he has inspected Foochow, he is certain of it when he visits Ningpo, and doubly sure on arriving in Tientsin. Yet after all, it will not be strange if he heartily regrets when he reviews with candour and impartiality the claims of Peking!

The three points upon which the occidental mind is sure to lay principal stress, when contemplating the inconveniences of Chinese civilization, are the absence of postal facilities, the state of the roads, and the condition of the currency. Private companies do not seem to be hindered by which letters and parcels may be transmitted from certain places in China to certain other places, but their functions are exceedingly limited, and compared with the whole empire, the areas which they accommodate are, but trifling. Of Chinese roads, we have already spoken, when discussing the absence of public spirit. It is because the Chinese continue especially Chinese shoes, is what has been described, and because Chinese roads are what we know them to be, that whatever the weather



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[386] Canton, 30th March, 1889.



